

REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, Applicant has amended claims 1-5, 8-11, and 16-19 and has added new claims 22-25. No new matter has been entered by way of these amendments. In view of these amendments and the following remarks, Applicant hereby respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of claims 1-25.

The Office has rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,999,932 to Paul ("Paul"). The Office asserts that Paul discloses: receiving a sequence of e-mail messages at col. 3, lines 60-65; categorizing each e-mail message into at least one of a plurality of categories at col. 3, lines 60-65, and col. 4, lines 2-40; and displaying each of the categorized messages in accordance with a display specification, wherein the display specification specifies how each of the plurality of categories are displayed at col. 4, lines 5-40, col. 8, line 20 to col. 9, line 11.

Paul does not disclose or suggest "wherein the display specification specifies one of a plurality of levels of granularity for how the categorized messages in each of the plurality of categories are displayed" as recited in claim 1, "wherein the display specification specifies one of a plurality of levels of granularity for how the categorized messages in each of the plurality of categories are displayed" as recited in claim 8 or "wherein the display specification specifies one of a plurality of levels of granularity for how the categorized messages in each of the plurality of categories are displayed" as recited in claim 16.

In Paul, the level of granularity with respect to the e-mail messages is always the same, i.e. the display shows the e-mail messages. The different display options disclosed in Paul simply refer to different ways to display the determined display code with each of the e-mail messages. The Office's attention is respectfully directed to col. 8, line 20 to col. 9, line 10 in Paul, which disclose a process that determines if each received e-mail is OK because the e-mail message is from a known inclusion list, e.g. from a known sender, is NEW based on satisfaction of the requirements of one or more heuristic processes, or is JUNK if it does not meet any heuristic requirements. Each of the processed e-mails is then displayed in Paul with the determined display code, i.e. OK, NEW, or JUNK, however the level of granularity with respect to each of displayed the e-mail messages is the same. Paul does disclose at col. 9, lines 11-19 that other display modes can be used, such as displaying the OK, NEW, and JUNK e-mail messages in different colors, however again these different

display options are with respect to the different display codes, not with respect to the level of granularity at which the e-mail messages are displayed.

As set forth on page 2, lines 6-14 in the above-identified patent application, “The present invention allow a user to specify, in a relatively simple way, a different inbox (or other folder) display treatment for each such purpose. Each display treatment can present messages from different categories at different, category-specific and display specific levels of granularity. Also, the messages in a particular category can be presented in different ways on different displays. For example, given two user-specified display treatments D1 and D2, and two categories C1 and C2, display treatment D1 might list all messages from category C1 and omit any from C2, while display treatment D2 might list the subject threads of category C1, and just a single item representing the entire category from category C2.” Additionally, as discussed on page 2, lines 15-24 and page 4, line 17 to page 6, line 30 and illustrated in FIGS. 3-6 in the above-identified patent application, e-mail messages can be displayed at varying levels of granularity, e.g. as threads, messages, categories, and other combinations. Accordingly, the present invention provides a display for e-mail messages with different levels of granularity that allows a user to identify and focus on only the most critical messages when serious time constraints apply and to catch up on lower priority messages at other times.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 8 and 16. Since claims 2-7 depend from and contain the limitations of claim 1, claims 9-15 depend from and contain the limitations of claim 8, and claims 17-22 depend from and contain the limitations of claim 16, they are distinguishable over the cited reference and are patentable in the same manner as claims 1, 8 and 16.

Paul also does not disclose or suggest “wherein one of the plurality of levels of granularity in the display specification provides for the display of the e-mail messages in one of the plurality of categories by encapsulating the messages into threads and for providing at least one item on a top level display for each of the corresponding threads” as recited in claim 3, 10, and 18. As described in greater detail above, the different display options disclosed in Paul simply refer to different ways to display the determined display code with each of the e-mail messages. The disclosure at col. 9, lines 7-15 in Paul cited by the Office simply relates to the use of other display options with respect to the different display codes, not with respect to the level of granularity at which the e-mail messages are displayed. Nowhere does Paul

teach or suggest displaying the messages at different levels of granularity and, in particular, nowhere does Paul teach or suggest encapsulating the messages into threads and providing at least one item on the display for these threads. The present invention provides a display for e-mail messages with different levels of granularity that allows a user to identify and focus on only the most critical messages when serious time constraints apply and to catch up on lower priority messages at other times. Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 3, 10, and 18.

Paul does not disclose or suggest “wherein one of the plurality of levels of granularity in the display specification provides for the display of the e-mail messages in one of the plurality of categories by encapsulating the messages in the corresponding category and for providing at least one item on a top level display for the corresponding category” as recited in claim 4, 11, and 19. The disclosure at col. 8, line 20 to col. 9, line 5 in Paul cited by the Office simply relates to a process that determines if each received e-mail is OK because the e-mail message is from a known inclusion list, e.g. from a known sender, is NEW based on satisfaction of the requirements of one or more heuristic processes, or is JUNK if it does not meet any heuristic requirements. Each of the processed e-mails is then displayed in Paul with the determined display code, i.e. OK, NEW, or JUNK, however the level of granularity with respect to each of displayed the e-mail messages is the same. Nowhere does Paul disclose encapsulating the messages into categories and providing at least one item on the display for each of these categories which each have the encapsulated messages. The messages in Paul are all displayed in an un-encapsulated format. The present invention provides a display for e-mail messages with different levels of granularity that allows a user to identify and focus on only the most critical messages when serious time constraints apply and to catch up on lower priority messages at other times. Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 4, 11, and 19.

Paul does not disclose or suggest “wherein at least one of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories is nested within another of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories and wherein the nested user-defined rule-based category is displayed differently than the another of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories” as recited in claim 5, 12, and 20. The disclosure at col. 4, lines 34-40 in Paul cited by the Office simply relates to the use of different categories of data in the e-mail message, e.g. the “TO,”

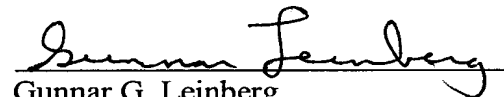
"FROM," "CC," "BCC," and "SUBJECT" fields, to determine which display code, e.g. OK, NEW, or JUNK, should be associated with the message. However, Paul does not teach or suggest any nesting of any rules based categories or different display for these nested categories. The present invention provides a display for e-mail messages with different levels of granularity that allows a user to identify and focus on only the most critical messages when serious time constraints apply and to catch up on lower priority messages at other times. Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 5, 12, and 20.

Applicant has also added new dependent claims 22-25 which Applicant believes are distinguishable over the cited references and in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

In view of all of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this case is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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